

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SCCT-01 CAB-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02

FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SY-05 /112 W

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R 171508Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2699

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5646

E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: EAIR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REPORT TO ICAO PRESIDENT ON ISTANBUL TERRORIST  
ATTACK

1. GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE HAS RELEASED FOLLOWING LETTER SENT  
BY ISRAELI TRANSPORTATION MINISTER YAAKOBI:

QUOTE

MR. ASSAD KOTAITE

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION

1000 SHERBROOKE STREET WEST

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

CANADA

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 13 OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE  
SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS AGAINST THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION,  
SIGNED AT MONTREAL ON 23 SEPTEMBER 1971, ISRAEL WISHES TO  
REPORT THAT:

1. ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH OF AUGUST 1976, TWO TERRORISTS,  
BELONGING TO THE "POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF  
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PALESTINE" TERRORIST ORGANISATION, SET OFF EXPLOSIVE

CHARGES AND OPENED FIRE WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AMONG THE PASSENGERS OF AN EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES' FLIGHT NO. 581, IN ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE TERRORISTS WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THEY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KILL "AS MANY ISRAELIS AS WE CAN."

2. (A) THE TERRORISTS THUS KILLED FOUR PERSONS, TWO OF THEM ISRAELIS, AND WOUNDED TWENTY ONE. ALL THE CASUALTIES WERE SUFFERED BY THE SECOND OF TWO GROUPS OF PASSENGERS WAITING TO BOARD THE EL AL PLANE. THE FIRST GROUP WAS ALREADY ON BOARD THE BUS WHICH WAS TO TAKE THEM TO THE PLANE.

(B) MORE SERIOUS CASUALTIES WERE AVERTED DUE TO THE SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY EL AL, AND TO THE SWIFT ACTION TAKEN BY THE TURKISH SECURITY OFFICERS.

3. THE TWO TERRORISTS WERE TRANSIT PASSENGERS SUPPOSEDLY WAITING TO FLY ON TO BAGHDAD. THEY HAD ARRIVED IN ISTANBUL FROM LIBYA, WITH A STOPOVER IN ROME.

4. PRESUMABLY THE TERRORISTS HAD NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT EL AL'S SECURITY MEASURES. BEING TRANSIT PASSENGERS THEY HOPED TO GET OUT TO THE AIRPORT TARMAC WITHOUT UNDERGOING BODY AND BAGGAGE SEARCHES, AS THIS WAS THE TECHNIQUE TERRORISTS HAD PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED AT ROME'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IT FURTHER CAN BE ASSUMED THAT ONLY WHEN THEY REALIZED THAT THEY COULD NOT AVOID DETECTION AT A SPECIAL CHECKPOINT DID THE GUNMEN DECIDE TO END THEIR MISSION WITH RANDOM VIOLENCE.

5. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE TERRORISTS SUCCESSFULLY EVADED ALL EARLIER SECURITY CONTROLS. THEY COULD BE CERTAIN OF THE FACT THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE CHECKED IN LIBYA, THEIR POINT OF DEPARTURE, WHERE THEY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS, AND AS TRANSIT PASSENGERS THEY WOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO FURTHER SECURITY CHECKS AND WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY THE ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TAKEN BY THEM FROM LIBYA INTO THE ISTANBUL TERMINAL BUILDING, UNCHALLENGED. IN FACT NO SECURITY CHECKS WERE ADMINISTERED IN LIBYA. IN ROME THE LUGGAGE CARRIED IN THE HOLD WAS TRANSFERRED WITHOUT FURTHER CHECKS AND THE HAND BAGGAGE APPARENTLY WAS NOT CHECKED AT ALL.

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6. UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH WANTON AND UNHUMAN ACTS DIRECTED AGAINST INNOCENT PASSENGERS, CREWMEN AND AIRPORT PERSONNEL, SERVE TIME AND AGAIN TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S STANCE THAT THE SECURITY STANDARDS ADOPTED BY ICAO UNTIL NOW ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH THIS SERIOUS THREAT TO CIVIL AVIATION AT LARGE.

7. IT IS MY GOVERNMENT'S WISH THAT THE ORGANIZATION, THROUGH ITS VARIOUS BODIES, ENSURE THAT THE SUBJECT OF AIR TRANSPORT SECURITY AND LEGAL MEASURES TO ENSURE SUCH SECURITY BE GIVEN THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF ATTENTION AND PRIORITY. SUCH ACTS OF UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ARE A REAL AND PRESENT DANGER. THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WHO BENEFIT FROM INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION REQUIRES CONTINUED VIGILANCE AND POSITIVE DETERRENT ACTION BY THE ORGANIZATION.

8. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL BE PRESENTING IN DUE COURSE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS AS TO ADDITIONAL MEASURES WHICH WE FEEL SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE ORGANIZATION AND BY MEMBER STATES.

GAD YAAKOBI  
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT  
THE STATE OF ISRAEL  
END QUOTE.  
TOON

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